



A Short History of Chips (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you eat snacks between your meals?
2. If so, are they usually sweet or savoury snacks?
3. Do you ever buy packets of potato chips (called crisps in the UK)?
4. If so, do you have a favourite brand?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.

1. In the USA, _____ billion pounds of potato chips are eaten every year.
2. Some say that potato chips were invented by George Crum in the _____ century.
3. Crum was a chef working at Moon's _____ House, Saratoga Springs, New York.
4. One day, in _____, a rich customer complained about the fried potatoes and sent them back.
5. He said he wanted a more _____ version.
6. In another version of the story, it was Crum's _____ who invented potato chips.
7. According to yet another theory, an _____ had already created them by 1817.
8. The most popular flavoured chips are salt and pepper or _____.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions..

1. What is the average yearly consumption of potato chips per person in the USA?
2. What was wrong with the chips served to Cornelius Vanderbilt?
3. How did Crum feel about Vanderbilt's criticism? Why?
4. What did he do to make sure the potatoes were very crunchy?
5. Why was Crum surprised by Vanderbilt's reaction?
6. How did Catherine Adkins Wicks invent chips, according to another version of the story?
7. Why do some people think William Kitchiner created potato chips before Crum?
8. Why are bags of potato chips always only half full?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. I cut my finger while I was _____ some bread for toast.
2. Joseph is very _____. He cuts every bit of fat off his steaks.
3. The new company has done very well this year. Its _____ has increased by 30 per cent.
4. Uncle George lost his balance and fell in the pond. His son jumped in and _____ him out.
5. The government has denied the rumour. There is an investigation to find the _____ of it.
6. It rained all night and the next morning the tennis courts were too _____ to play on.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

A few years ago, a government survey found that a third of British children eat crisps every day. The remaining two 1_____ eat them several times a week. This is really 2_____ news, as it is well-known that crisps are full of salt, sugar and, 3_____ all, fat.

In fact, researchers claim that eating a packet of crisps a day is more or less the 4_____ as drinking five litres of cooking oil a year. It 5_____ been proved that the ingredients in crisps greatly increase the risk of obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Therefore, eating too 6_____ crisps during childhood can lead to a lifetime of ill-health.

F – Write about it

Write about a snack that's very popular in your country. Mention:

- what it's made of;
- when it's eaten;
- where it originated;
- whether it's healthy or unhealthy;
- how often you eat it.

Oliver Cromwell (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about the English Civil War? (What caused it? When did it take place? etc.)
2. Has there ever been a civil war in your country? If so, when? What was it about?
3. Have you ever heard of Oliver Cromwell? If so, what do you know about his religious beliefs?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Oliver Cromwell was a wealthy landowner.
2. He became a Puritan in 1640.
3. King Charles I and his wife were both Protestants.
4. After joining the army, Cromwell was rapidly promoted to Lord General.
5. He was responsible for thousands of deaths in Ireland.
6. King Charles was executed in 1647.
7. Cromwell ruled for about 5 years.
8. Soon after his death, a statue of him was placed outside Parliament.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why was Oliver Cromwell unique among the rulers of Britain?
2. What problems were there in the Church of England in the middle of the 17th century?
3. What did Parliament and King Charles disagree on?
4. Why was Cromwell popular with his troops?
5. What was King Charles found guilty of?
6. What precautions did his executioner take? Why?
7. Why wasn't England a real republic while Cromwell was in power?
8. What happened to Cromwell's body after his death?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. A _____ is an officer who commands a platoon of around thirty soldiers.
2. At first we didn't recognise Sam because he'd shaved off his _____.
3. The democratically-elected president was overthrown in a _____ coup led by army officers.
4. Jim took care of the accounts and his wife dealt with the day-to-day _____ of the company.
5. In the 1970s, Afro hairstyles were fashionable and many people wore curly _____.
6. The feud went on for years as each clan tried to _____ the death of a family member.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

Being a Puritan, Oliver Cromwell believed that everybody should lead their lives according to the teachings of the Bible. 1_____ amusement at all was frowned upon. All the theatres and many taverns were obliged to 2_____ down and the majority of sports were banned.

On Sunday, no work could be carried out. Even going for a walk was forbidden, 3_____ it was to go to church. Children caught 4_____ football were beaten.

Saints' Feast days were abolished and replaced by a monthly day of fasting, on 5_____ no food at all was eaten. Cromwell even changed Christmas! People were supposed to concentrate on the birth of Christ rather 6_____ on eating and drinking. Soldiers patrolled the streets of cities and seized any food that was 7_____ cooked for a Christmas celebration. It's hardly surprising that Cromwell 8_____ up being hated by most of the population of Britain.

F – Write about it

Write about a dictator or authoritarian leader of the past. Mention:

- what country he/she led and when;
- how he/she came to power;
- what happened during the dictatorship;
- how/his her dictatorship ended;
- how he/she is judged today.

The Isles of Scilly (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are there any archipelagos off the coast of your country?
2. If so, where are they? What are they called? How many islands are they made up of?
3. What do you know about the Isles of Scilly?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The Isles of Scilly
a) are a 45-island archipelago. b) are 145 in number. c) are 145 miles from Cornwall.
2. It is possible that in Roman times the Isles of Scilly
a) were a single large island. b) were part of Cornwall. c) had 140 churches.
3. The population of the Isles of Scilly has almost doubled in the last two centuries.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.
4. Most of the homes on the islands now belong to
a) the state. b) King Charles. c) Prince William.

5. At present, the islands' main source of income is
 a) shipbuilding. b) growing and selling flowers. c) tourism.
6. One of the most pressing problems on the islands is
 a) a lack of housing. b) crime. c) unemployment.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What's the connection between the Isles of Scilly and King Arthur?
2. Why have the islands been described as "hilltops"?
3. Why did medieval fishermen often find pieces of doors and windows in their nets?
4. Which of the islands should you visit if you're interested in horticulture?
5. How did the Valhalla Museum manage to collect hundreds of figureheads from ships?
6. What advantage did flower farmers on the Isles of Scilly have in the 19th century? Why?
7. What attracts so many holiday-makers to the Isles of Scilly?
8. How do the incomes of the islands' inhabitants compare with those of the rest of England?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. After the exceptionally heavy rain, most of the roads were _____.
2. Amina's _____ so she needs to wear glasses to drive.
3. Andy's hobby is _____. He spends his weekends outdoors with a notebook and binoculars.
4. The cottage was on a _____ from which there was a wonderful view of the valley below.
5. The police discovered that the man had murdered his wife and _____ her in the back garden.
6. If you climb to the top of the tower, you can see most of the city's _____.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

- Example: Perhaps part of the myth is actually true.
 MAY Part of the myth may actually be true.
1. Historians think King Arthur is a mythical figure.
 BE King Arthur _____ a mythical figure.
 2. The sea was four metres lower three thousand years ago.
 HAS The sea _____ the last three thousand years.
 3. Most residents are tenants of the Prince of Wales.
 HOMES Most residents _____ from the Prince of Wales.
 4. The entire archipelago is named after one uninhabited island.
 GIVES One uninhabited island _____ the entire archipelago.
 5. However, the islands don't suffer from one problem.
 OTHER There is, _____, one problem the islands don't suffer from.
 6. Taylor was shocked to find that neighbours didn't lock their doors.
 BY Neighbours _____ their doors unlocked.

F – Write about it

Write about a well-known tourist location in your country. Mention:

- where it's located;
 - how to get there;
 - what you can do and see there;
 - the best time to go.
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Witch Panic (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Have you seen any films about witches or wizards?
2. If so, were the witches or wizards in them good or evil?
3. Do you believe some people have supernatural powers? Why (not)?
4. Do you know of any famous witch trials that took place in your country in past centuries?
5. If so, where? Who was involved? What happened to the so-called witches?

B – Listen and answer

Listen to the main article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false) beside these statements.

1. The King James Bible was commissioned in 1611.
2. The Malleus Maleficarum was written by a Christian church minister.
3. King James thought witches had plotted to kill him.
4. He had read a book entitled Daemonologie and had been influenced by it.
5. This book was the basis for the witches (or Weird Sisters) in Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth.
6. After James had become King of England as well as Scotland, witch panic increased.
7. In the 1640s, Matthew Hopkins, a witch-hunter, was officially named Witch-finder General.
8. He was responsible for the death of twenty-three women in his home town in 1644.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What did the book Malleus Maleficarum contain?
2. What enabled the ideas contained in the Malleus Maleficarum to spread rapidly?
3. What made King James think that he was the victim of witches?
4. How was Agnes Sampson's confession obtained?
5. How, according to Daemonologie, did the devil act?
6. What real conspiracy endangered the life of King James?
7. What was the basis for Matthew Hopkins' witch hunt in the town of Manningtree, Essex?
8. How many women died following the accusations of Matthew Hopkins and his associates?

D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

N.B. This interview is graded as C1, so don't be discouraged if you find it difficult. Try to understand the main points.

Read these statements. Then listen to the interview with Ben Paites, without reading, and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Colchester Castle was used as a prison during the Essex witch trials.
2. The exhibition Wicked Spirits focuses less on the witch-hunters than on their victims.
3. The majority of people who were accused of witchcraft were found guilty.
4. Special tools were used to prick people to see if the devil protected them from pain.
5. During the Manningtree witch hunt, a mother escaped death by accusing her daughter.
6. Ben Paites says people are more likely to accuse one another in times of existing conflict.
7. Only a small number of men were accused of practising magic.
8. John Dee was put to death by Elizabeth I for practising alchemy and astrology.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

Listen to the interview while reading the text. (If you did Exercise D, check your answers while reading.)

F – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense or change from plural to singular.)

1. The _____ of that corrupt politician is taking place at the Central Criminal Court today.

2. When John cut his finger, it _____ for about ten minutes.
3. There was a wedding at the local church on Saturday. The _____ was the mayor's sister.
4. Don't _____ me! It wasn't me who broke your favourite cup.
5. Lisa's sure there'll be a Maths test on Friday. She _____ two teachers discussing it.
6. Our village has grown a lot and unfortunately many of its old customs are _____.

G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Witchcraft was considered to be heresy, therefore the _____ (PUNISH) was death.
2. It was thought that the Devil gave _____ (HARM) magical powers to certain people.
3. Many women were accused of witchcraft by Matthew Hopkins, a puritanical _____ (LAW).
4. He started his career as a witch-hunter during a time of religious _____ (HEAVE)
5. During the Essex witch trials, the suspects were _____ (PRISON) in Colchester Castle.
6. In the castle, the accused _____ (GO) torture, like pricking or sleep deprivation.
7. The _____ (FORTUNE) who were found guilty were hanged.
8. Some of the case studies included in the Colchester exhibition are _____ (TERROR).

H – Write about it

Write about an infamous figure in your country's history. Include:

- some biographical information;
- when/where he/she was active;
- what he/she did;
- who/what suffered as a result.

Answers (A Short History of Chips B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. 1.85
2. 19th
3. Lake
4. 1853
5. crunchy
6. sister
7. English doctor
8. cheese and onion

C – Read and answer

1. It's 6.6 pounds (2.99 kg).
2. They were thick and soggy./They weren't crunchy.
3. He was annoyed because he thought Vanderbilt was too fussy.
4. He sliced the potatoes very thinly and fried them to a crisp/almost burnt them.
5. Because he expected Vanderbilt to say the potatoes were too crisp.
6. She accidentally dropped a thin slice of potato into boiling fat.
7. Because in 1817 he had published a cookbook with a recipe for 'potatoes fried in slices'.
8. Because the space prevents the crisps from being crushed.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. slicing
2. fussy
3. turnover
4. fished
5. source
6. soggy

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. thirds
2. bad/awful/terrible/... (or any similar negative adjective)
3. above
4. same
5. has
6. many

Answers (Oliver Cromwell B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – He was a modest farmer.
2. F – He was already a devout Puritan when he entered Parliament in 1640.
3. Charles was a Protestant but his wife was a Catholic.
4. T
5. T
6. F – He was captured in 1647 (and executed in 1649).
7. T
8. F – The statue was erected in 1899, over 200 years after his death.

C – Read and answer

1. He was the only non-royal ever to rule the country./He ruled over a republic, not a kingdom. 2. There were religious differences which led to violence. 3. They disagreed on the running of the country. Parliament wanted to control the powers of the king. King Charles believed he had a divine right to rule. 4. He was able to instil self-belief in them and he looked after them like a mother. 5. He was found guilty of tyranny and treason. 6. He wore a wig and a false beard to protect his identity. 7. Because Cromwell ruled with many of the powers of a king. 8. Cromwell was buried in Westminster Abbey in 1658, but in 1661 his body was removed and hanged.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. lieutenant 2. beard 3. bloody 4. running 5. wigs 6. avenge

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. Any 2. close/shut 3. unless 4. playing 5. which 6. than 7. being 8. ended/ finished.

Answers (The Isles of Scilly B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. c 6. a.

C – Read and answer

1. It is said King Arthur was buried on the islands. 2. Because they are the highest points of an area that was once above sea level. 3. Because many churches were submerged when the sea rose and flooded parts of the area. The pieces of doors and windows probably came from these churches. 4. You should visit Tresco, which has an Abbey Garden containing 20,000 plants. 5. It obtained them from the hundreds of shipwrecks around the islands. 6. They were able to send their flowers to England early and beat mainland growers, because flowers bloom early on the islands. 7. They are attracted by the good weather, the beaches and watersports, the wildlife and gardens and the tranquillity. 8. They are low compared with mainland England.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. flooded 2. short-sighted 3. bird-watching 4. hilltop 5. buried 6. landmarks

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. is thought to be 2. has risen four metres in/over 3. rent their homes 4. gives its name to 5. on the other hand 6. shocked Taylor by leaving

Answers (Witch Panic B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It was commissioned in 1604 and published in 1611. 2. T 3. T 4. F – King James wrote Daemonologie himself. 5. T 6. T 7. F – He assumed the title. 8. F – He accused twenty-three women. Nineteen of these were convicted and hanged.

C – Read and answer

1. It contained a guide to witchcraft and it elevated witchcraft to the criminal status of heresy, which was punished by the death penalty. It also provided suggestions for the best ways to torture people in order to obtain a confession. 2. The invention of the printing press. 3. He had almost died in a storm while crossing the North Sea. 4. She was tortured. 5. By making pacts with people and giving them harmful magical powers. 6. The Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when a group of English Catholics tried to assassinate King James. 7. He claimed he had overheard some women discussing their meetings with the devil. 8. (Around) three hundred.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

1. T 2. T 3. F – The vast majority weren't found guilty. 4. F – They used ordinary tools, like needles. 5. F – A daughter escaped death by accusing her mother. 6. T 7. T 8. F – Under Elizabeth I, he was allowed to go around saying he was using magic. James I sent him away, but he was not put to death.

F – Learn it! Use it!

1. trial 2. bled 3. bride 4. blame 5. overheard 6. dying out.

G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English?

1. punishment 2. harmful 3. lawyer 4. upheaval 5. imprisoned 6. underwent
7. unfortunate(s) 8. terrifying/terrible.